

**Skateboard Advisory Committee
December 15, 2016
Parks & Recreation Office**

Skateboard Advisory Committee Members Present: Thomas Bubier, Michael Cannon, James Duane, Betty Funk, Kathy Hauck, Robert McArthur, Joan Rastani, Cheryl Tully Stoll

Others: James Snyder and Thomas Begin - Please see attached sign-in sheet;

Members Absent: James McCarthy and Jason Smith

Vice Chairperson Betty Funk called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and read the agenda into record. It was announced to the audience that the meeting was being recorded as well.

Committee Member Joan Rastani moved to approve the meeting minutes of July 28, 2016; Committee Member Cheryl Tully Stoll seconded the motion; the Committee voted 7-0-1 (Robert McArthur abstained) for said motion;

Vice Chairperson Funk asked Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Director Jim Snyder for a project status update. Mr. Snyder discussed the progress that has occurred since the last Committee meeting in July. These efforts have been focused on continuing the final design phase, engaging the public in design feedback, and working with various Town Department's to ensure project design complies with storm water and accessibility requirements. Mr. Snyder discussed the handout titled *Final Skate Park Design* highlighting the changes that have been made since prior draft designs. Mr. Snyder also updated the SAC on the following:

- PARC Grant update: the Parks Department was recently notified by the State that their PARC Grant application was not being approved for funding;
- The full construction budget for this project is \$437,000. Pillar Design was able to create a facility that meets this funding mark and provides a skate park that has roughly 12,000 square feet of skateable surface for users to enjoy;
- In the final State budget that was submitted to Governor Baker, an earmark of \$200K was included that would have been designated for skate park construction in the Town of Framingham. Governor Baker vetoed that line item during his budgeting process and that amount will no longer be available to the Town. However, this amount was not factored into the construction budget when designing the park and will not have a negative effect on the final design and product;
- During this process, the Parks Department worked with Pillar Design to identify aspects of construction that can be completed by Town staff. This was done in an attempt to reduce costs allowing the Town to build the largest facility possible for skaters;
- All changes that have been made to the design have not impacted the original Massachusetts Endangered Species Act approval. Parks Department staff has discussed this with Conservation Commission staff as well to ensure this;
- The Park layout continues to be outside Conservation Commission jurisdiction and will not require jurisdictional review at this time;
- The Parks Department, DPW, and Community & Economic Development Departments have been working together on planning and designing a recreational pathway that will stretch the

length of Dudley Road on the Farm Pond side. This will connect all amenities, including the Skate Park, together by the installation of a fully accessible, 10ft wide recreational pathway. Construction will be completed by June 30th and is paid for by a Complete Streets grant obtained by C&ED;

- Parks Department staff has discussed accessibility concerns with Mark Dempsey, ADA Compliancy Officer for the Town. Design efforts have taken this into consideration and will continue to do so moving forward with the goal of providing access to the park for all users;

Mr. Snyder further reviewed the design package handed out to SAC members, highlighting the site plan that shows each amenity within the site. Mr. Snyder introduced Kerry Reed, DPW Stormwater Engineer, to discuss storm water management at the site. Ms. Reed gave an overview of potential storm water management methods that can be used at this location and discussed an EPA grant award that will be utilized for storm water improvements and mitigation at the skate park. As a result of this grant, it has allowed the Town to increase park design and use a larger portion of Town Meeting appropriated funding on skate amenities.

Ms. Judy Grove, Town Meeting Member, asked if there was enough room within the Park and adequate amenities for BMX riders to enjoy. A number of skater within the audience indicated they felt there was plenty of room within the park for all users and that each user will use what is within the park to create their own experience.

Mr. Snyder then walked the SAC and audience through each page of the *Final Skate Park Design* handout that was given to both Committee members and the audience.

Below is a list of questions, comments, and concerns that Committee and audience members had for each page of the handout:

Page 1:

- Audience Member - this design is better than the first two designs shown to the public. Can there be a bank element in place of one side of the stairs?
- Audience Member – what is the height of the bowls?

Page 2:

- Audience Member – within the beginner area, could more features be added that all users could enjoy? Examples are mini ramps and ledges;
- The Committee recommended adding other features to the beginner/intermediate area that would deter people from using the shade shelter as a skating amenity;
- Audience Member - can a volcano be added into the beginner section?
- Committee Member Tom Bubier recommended placing the park benches under trees near the entrance. This could eliminate the need for a shade shelter and increase space;
- Committee Member Michael Cannon recommended separating the shade shelter from the park and relocating it closer to the recreational pathway;
- Audience Member – recommended keeping vantage points along the perimeter of the park for the parents to watch their kids skate;

Page 3:

- Audience Member - create a ramp on one side of the stair well to create a natural entrance flow from the pathway of the park;

Page 4:

- Audience Member – it looks like the railing and hubba ledge is feeding into each other and looks like the traffic flows into each other. What is the distance and separation of these two amenities?;

Page 5:

- There was no feedback regarding this page;

Page 6:

- Various audience members gave positive feedback regarding the addition of a yellow “slappy” curb on left side of the edge of the park;
- Committee members asked what will the paint colors within the park be? A suggestion was to keep it an earth tone that could be easily maintainable;
- Audience Member - can a ledge be added into the center feature? Something that is similar to the ledge that is in Concept A of the design development renderings;

Page 7:

- There was no additional feedback regarding this page;

Committee Member Robert McArthur recommended installing the slat park benches that the Parks Department currently using within the area. He felt this would decrease the potential of skaters using the benches as an additional feature and would decrease potential damage to benches.

Mr. Snyder discussed the remaining timeline for the project, explaining that Parks Department staff will relay all this feedback to Pillar Design and continue working with them to complete design. The intent is to hold a final Skatepark Public Presentation where Pillar Design will be in attendance to present the final design to the public and answer any questions that come up. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 12th from 7-9 PM in Nevins Hall. The Parks Department will again be utilizing social media, youth sport organizations, the School Department, local media, Town Meeting members, and Committee Members in spreading the news about this public presentation. The next steps after the final presentation will be to work with Pillar Design on finalizing construction documents and preparing plans and specs for bid. The anticipation is for bidding to occur during March/April, with awarding of the contract occurring in April as well. Due to the need for the recreational pathway construction to be complete prior to skate park construction, it is anticipated that the contractor will be able to mobilize and begin construction sometime in July/August. Completion of construction and the grand opening is anticipated to occur during the fall.

122 *Committee Member Jim Duane moved to adjourn at 8:30 pm; Committee Member Michael*
123 *Cannon seconded the motion; the Committee voted 9-0-0 for said motion.*
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126 Respectfully submitted,

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128 Thomas Begin

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130 The following documents were distributed to each of the SAC members during the meeting and are
131 available at the Park & Recreation Administration Offices:

- 132 1. *Final Skate Park Design Renderings, 12-5-2016;*
133 2. *July 28, 2016 SAC Minutes, 12-5-2016;*
134 3. *Dudley Road Multi-Use Recreation Path Site Plans, 7-28-2016;*

Skatepark Advisory Committee Meeting - December 15, 2016

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